
MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**of
Thursday, July 11, 2019
7:00pm at Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Marianne Coffin, Secretary
Joseph Savino
Nicholas Perna
Thomas Reynolds

Also Present: Major Stephen Brown

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 07:03pm by Chairman Kain.

AGENDA ITEM #1 AGENDA REVIEW

Chairman Kain asked the Commissioners if anyone had any adjustments to the agenda.

Major Brown stated to Chairman Kain that there would not be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

AGENDA ITEM #2 MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of June 13, 2019. Commissioner Perna motioned to accept the minutes; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. Commissioner Savino abstained from voting as he was not at the June 13, 2019 meeting. The vote carried 3-0-1.

AGENDA ITEM #3A COMMISSION VOICEMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Coffin stated that there were several voicemail requests from residents. One request was from a resident on Blue Ridge Road asking for curve signs with words and pictures; especially on the dangerous curve. As previously reported, Sign Officer Mark Caswell has checked out the area. Major Brown has also driven up there. Officer Caswell will follow up with the caller.

Commissioner Coffin also reported a resident observed that with the increased speed to 30mph on North Street, a 25mph sign going north is

needed. This is another area where Sign Officer Mark Caswell is working on.

A caller reported that Main Street gets congested at the crosswalks and that drivers don't stop for pedestrians.

A resident has already stated to Sign Officer Mark Caswell that she doesn't like the curve signs on Old Stagecoach Road. Major Brown has also talked to her. Commissioner Savino asked about the speed limit on Old Stagecoach Road. Major Brown stated he will send Officer Caswell to check on it and study the speed limit to determine if changes are needed.

Commissioner Coffin stated that a resident wants radar on Nod Hill Road. Major Brown will assign this. There was also a request to check speed on West Lane. This has been assigned.

AGENDA ITEM #3B COMMISSION WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

There was no written correspondence for the month of June.

AGENDA ITEM #4 CHIEF'S REPORT

A. **Statistics** Major Brown stated the number of calls for the month of June was 1,646. There were 18 foot patrols, 8 domestics including criminal, verbal and civil. There were 3 DUI's, 1 K-9 and one tenant-landlord incident to name a few.

B. **Training/PR Report**

The following report was submitted by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards:

RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING & COMMUNITY POLICING/PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT *June 2019*

June 5-6	Det. DuBord, Det. Ryan attended a Fraud Conference at Foxwoods.
June 7	Chief Kreitz, Major Brown, Lt. Gates, PO Geller, PO Giglio, PO Romero and PO McKnight participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run.
June 14	High School intern Ryan Sheafe completed his internship with the Ridgefield Police Department.

June 17	Det. Ryan was a guest speaker for the Commission on Aging and presented current trends of scams and fraud involving seniors.
June 24-28	SRO Giglio, SRO Luis and SRO Daly attended the NASRO School Safety Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN.
June 24-28	PO VanWattum attended the Mountain Bike Certification Training at Farmington PD.
June 26-27	PO DiFalco attended Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Education (ARIDE) course hosted by the FCPTOA in Newtown.

A total of 30 Public Relations incidents were recorded during the month to include:

- Multiple car seat installations
- Multiple stop and talks at houses of worship
- PD Tours and Safety Talks Presentations by PO McKnight, PO Gjodesen, PO DiFalco and PO VanWattum
- Monthly Youth Commission meeting was attended by Det. Dardis
- Various talks with downtown shop owners and community members

This report was submitted by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards.

Major Brown stated some of the detectives have been to additional training for fraud, identity theft and that the detectives have been doing a great job. The SRO's are back from national SRO training. They got a lot out of it. PO VanWattum received bike patrol training at the Farmington PD.

Commissioner Perna stated he went to the scam and fraud meeting presented by Detective Ryan. He reported this class was well received by the Commission on Aging.

C. Sign Report

There were no sign reports turned in for the month of June by Sign

Officer Mark Caswell, who is on vacation. This will be tabled until the September 12 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION

There was no union participation for the month of June.

AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS

A. **Extension of Lt. and Sgt. Promotional Eligibility List.**

Major Brown stated that Chief Kreitz had asked to table this to the September 12, 2019 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS

A. **Racial Profiling Project**

The report for 2019 is based on 2017 stats. The study is prepared by the Central Connecticut State University. About 60% of the stops are for speed. These stops were considered "blind stops" which is when an Officer can't tell what race they are stopping. The stops in Ridgefield are unbiased.

B. **Community Survey**

There has been a fantastic response to the Community Survey on Facebook. There have been 523 responses within the four days since it started. It takes about 5 minutes to do the survey. The survey is for feedback from the residents of Ridgefield to the Ridgefield Police Department about what they like or want to see more of from the department. More distracted driving stops, speed, more foot patrol are a few of the requests residents want to see more of. Residents are to rate their concern level for issues within the town.

Major Brown designed the survey and both Major Brown and Chief Kreitz edited the survey questions together.

Major Brown is preparing a formal summary of the survey for the September 12 meeting.

C. **Neds Mountain Road**

The state has agreed with the Police Commission's request to lower the speed limit to 20mph on the road. A formal certification will follow.

D. **New Building Meeting**

Requests for Proposal (RFP) for the Feasibility Study options are due by Tuesday, August 20.

E. **Curve Project Public Information Session – Thursday, September 12 at Police Commission Meeting**

On September 12 the State will come down to talk about state roads and what should be done about signage.

Commissioner Savino made a motion to adjourn the Public Session of the Police Commission Meeting at 8:01pm. Seconded by Commissioner Coffin. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Coffin
Police Commission Secretary